

CLAIMS

1. Method for the reconstruction of holographic images, the holographic image being detected by an image detection device, the holographic image being transformed in a digitized hologram, the digitized
5 hologram being made of a number V_r of signal intensity values corresponding to as many elementary sub-images or "pixels" of the holographic image, the pixel sizes being equal to the holographic image sampling intervals, the method comprising a first step of processing the digitized hologram array, and a second step of hologram reconstruction in
10 the complex plane starting from the digitized hologram processed in the first step, the method being characterised in that the second step is carried out through discrete Fresnel transform starting from an array of V_e values, comprising said V_r values and an integer number $p = V_e - V_r > 0$ of constant values equal to OS, corresponding to as many pixels of sizes
15 equal to the ones of the others.
2. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that said p constant values are null values ($OS = 0$).
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that said p values are arranged externally to said array of V_r values.
- 20 4. Method according to claim 3, characterised in that said p values are arranged in a symmetrical way.
5. Method according to claim 3, characterised in that said p values are arranged in a non-symmetrical way.
6. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised
25 in that said number V_e of values is inversely proportional to the desired pixel size to be obtained for the reconstructed image.
7. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the digitized hologram is a square array of $V_r = N_r M_r$ values, each value corresponding to a square pixel of sizes $\Delta x, \Delta y$.
- 30 8. Method according to claim 7, characterised in that the hologram reconstructed in the second step is represented by a square array of $V_e = N_e M_e$ values, each value corresponding to a square pixel of sizes $\Delta \xi = (\lambda d / N_e \Delta x)$ and $\Delta \eta = (\lambda d / M_e \Delta y)$, λ being the wavelength of the wave beam striking the object of which the hologram is recorded, and d
35 the distance between the detection device and the object of which the hologram is detected, $\Delta \xi$ and $\Delta \eta$ being the reconstructed holographic image sampling intervals.

9. Method according to claim 8, characterised in that $N_e = (\lambda d / \Delta x^2)$, $M_e = (\lambda d / \Delta y^2)$, $\Delta \xi = \Delta x$, $\Delta \eta = \Delta y$.

5 10. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that, after the second step, if each holographic image sampling interval is not equal or less than a certain threshold, the number of values p added to the digitized hologram array is increased and the second step is carried out again.

11. Method according to claim 10, characterised in that said threshold is a function of the signal-to-noise ratio of the holographic image.

10 12. Computer program characterised in that it comprises code means apt to execute, when running on a computer, the method according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

15 13. Memory medium, readable by a computer, storing a program, characterised in that the program is the computer program according to claim 12.

14. Apparatus for detection of holographic images, comprising a digitized hologram processing unit, characterised in that the processing unit processes the detected data by using the method according to any one of claims 1 to 11.